COMMANDERS DIGEST

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'Not Losing in Vietnam,' Defense Sec. Tells Nation

After receiving a firsthand briefing in Saigon, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara says he doesn't want to forecast the number of United States troops that may be required in Vietnam, but will send whatever forces are needed.

"The road ahead will be long and hard," the Secretary said, after his seventh visit in five years to Vietnam. "The most vivid impression I'm bringing back is that we have stopped losing the war."

This he credited to very substantial increases in South Vietnamese military strength and in the strength of free world forces—U.S. combat strength and forces provided by Australia, New Zealand and Korea.

These forces have very clearly denied the Viet Cong the victory they sought to achieve during the summer monsoon season, the Secretary noted.

"There is no question in our mind but what during that period they hoped to divide the country in half," he said, "and maul and dismember, and in a real sense, defeat the military forces of South Vietnam.

"They have been defeated in achieving that objective."

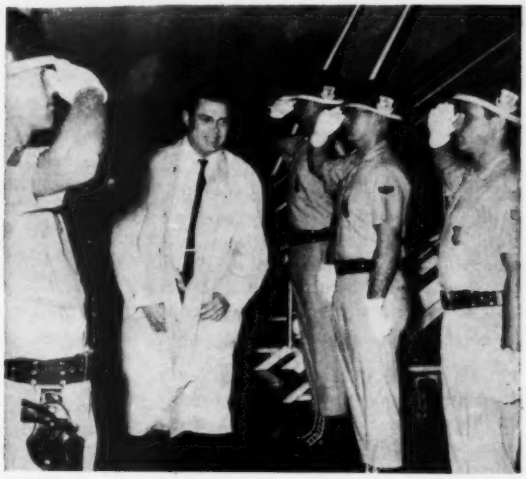
Col. Glenn Named to Air Museum Board

President Johnson has announced his intention to appoint Colonel John H. Glenn Jr., USMC (ret.), as a member of the National Air Museum Advisory Board. The first American to orbit the earth, Colonel Glenn has been serving as a consultant to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Army Seeking Qualified Specialists At Lt., Capt. Level in Medical Corps

An immediate need for lieutenants and captains qualified in certain medical specialties exists in the Army Medical Corps, according to the Army Surgeon General's Office.

Qualified specialists in clinical psychology, medical laboratory areas, optometry, podiatry, entomology, social work, sanitary engineering and administrative work related to medicine may apply for commissions and concurrent active duty.



HONORS FOR SEC DEF—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara walks through an Air Force honor guard at Andersen AFB, Guam, on the final leg of a tour that took him to London, Paris and Southeast Asia. During his stop at the base, the Secretary talked with B-52 crews and viewed a display of weapons being used against the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam.

Defense Closings Save $410 Million Annually

Fifty-three thousand military and civilian positions will be eliminated, and an annual savings of $410 million effected, under terms of an announcement made by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

Without decreasing military effectiveness or limiting this country's current and future activities in Southeast Asia, Mr. McNamara has directed that 149 actions be taken to close, consolidate or reduce military bases which are surplus to current needs.

Bases are located in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and ten foreign countries. Names of bases are to be announced. More than 93,000 acres of land will be released for non-defense use.

Mr. McNamara said the Army, Navy and Air Force fully support each of the actions. He noted that, combined with similar decisions made since March 1961, these new actions will bring total savings resulting from terminations of unnecessary operations to $1.5 billion a year.

Washington Memos

DESPITE HEAVY LOSSES, Viet Cong are continuing to infiltrate men and equipment into South Vietnam. Secretary McNamara made this disclosure, adding, "They have increased the number of their attacks, they have broadened the scope of their attacks, they have increased the level of conflict." The Secretary said he thinks these actions "represent a clear intention on the part of Hanoi to escalate the level of their effort and to raise the level of their conflict."

IT IS BELIEVED that the North Vietnamese now have nine regiments of their regular Army in South Vietnam, and have been infiltrating additional men at the rate of about 1,500 a month during the rainy season. Level of infiltration will approach 4,500 men monthly during the forthcoming dry season. These figures compare with about 800 infiltrators a month last year.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS approved release of 200,000 tons of copper from the national stockpiles in the interest of common defense. His decision was based on recommendations from the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense and Commerce, the Office of Emergency Planning, and Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors.

FIFTY-FIVE ARMY colonels have been approved by the President for appointment to grade of temporary brigadier general. Nominations for Senate confirmation will be submitted in January 1966.

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY hosted the 17th Annual Student Conference on U.S. Affairs Dec. 1-4. General Maxwell D. Taylor, special advisor to the President, addressed more than 200 student delegates from U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities.

COLLEGE-BOUND DEPENDENTS of Army personnel have until Jan. 1 to apply for U.S. Army educational assistance loans. With the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Department of the Army offers 40 non-interest loans ranging from $250 to $1,500 annually. Students must have ranked as "commended" or semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last March to be eligible.

THE AIR FORCE Academy has installed a "current world situation" room in its library, designed to keep cadets and staff and faculty members up to date on U.S. military assistance movements through the world. Room contains maps, projection equipment and written background material.

LEADING CIVILIAN AND military clergymen from Washington, D.C., and the northeast met at Ft. Totten, N.Y., Dec. 7-8 for a workshop and seminar on the religious program for Army missilemen on air defense vigil sites ringing metropolitan complexes.

"OUTSTANDING," HIGHEST GRADE possible for an amphibious force ship in refresher training, has been attained by the San Diego-based dock landing ship USS Colonial (LSD 18). She is the first ship in two years to be awarded this top mark. For the past three years, Colonial has been graded "excellent," next best mark.

MEDALS OF MERIT from the Conseil International du Sport Militaire have been awarded to Major General Joe S. Lawrie, USA, Lieutenant Colonel Emmett C. Townsend, USA, and Commander Charles E. Johnson, USN, for their past contributions to the Conseil.

FIFTY SHIPS, 12,000 men of U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Fleet Marine Force Atlantic take part in routine training exercises off southeastern Puerto Rico the first two weeks of December.

A NEW LIFE preserver undergoing Navy evaluation, may possibly be worn all day without discomfort and without hindering a person at work. It resembles a parachute harness, without parachute, and inflates automatically. Navy's Aerospace Recovery Facility, El Centro, Calif., has long been seeking such a preserver.

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS in 1966 will jump from 3⅝ to 4.2 percent with maximum annual individual cost limited to $277.20 yearly. Current annual $4,800 ceiling will increase to $6,600. Under present ceiling, maximum amount witheld is $174. New rates will constitute an increase of $103.20 for persons making $6,600 or more. Officials credited adjustment to "built-in provisions calling for progressive rate and ceiling increases."

FIVE U.S. OFFICERS received the Legion of Merit in Seoul, Korea, Nov. 22. General Dwight E. Beach, USA, Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, made presentations to Major General James H. Skeldon, USA, Brigadier General Frank D. Miller, USA, Colonels Allan G. Pixton, USA, John A. Brooks III, USAF, and Aleck F. MacDonald, USA, (ret.).

NAVY'S SPECIAL PROJECTS Office is using an airborne submarine simulator called LASS 1 to solve a problem in mating submerged personnel rescue vehicles with disabled submarines. LASS 1 is a helium filled vehicle with a nylon hull.

AIR NATIONAL GUARDSMEN are scheduled to begin receiving lightweight, aluminum alloy M-16 rifles next spring as replacements for World War II and Korea-model .30 caliber carbines. The new rifle, originally known as AR-15, has been adopted for issue throughout the Air Force and is being used extensively in the Republic of Vietnam by USAF and Army Special Forces personnel.

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY Act requires all aliens in the U.S. and its possessions to report their addresses to the Attorney General during January of each year. Aliens temporarily out of U.S. during January must report addresses within 10 days of return.

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3 Army Divisions in Germany To Receive Additional Armor

Three infantry divisions in Germany will receive additional armor during the first half of 1966, U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) Headquarters has announced.

A mechanized infantry battalion in the 3rd and 8th Infantry Divisions will be outfitted with the new M-60 tank. The conversion will give each of these divisions a battalion mix of six mechanized and four armor battalions.

The 24th Infantry Division will achieve an identical battalion mix by replacing one of its mechanized infantry battalions with the 5th Battalion, 32nd Armor —the only round-out battalion now in the Federal Republic of Germany. This unit will become an organic member of the 24th Division and will remain in the Federal Republic.

As a result of these changes, the equivalent of one mechanized battalion will be inactivated. All changes and conversions are part of program to further increase armor and firepower of U.S. Army Forces in Germany.

USS Pyro Commended by SecNav For Operational Support in SE Asia

Personnel of the ammunition supply ship USS Pyro have been commended for exceptionally meritorious service in support of military operations in Southeast Asia by Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze.

During the period Dec. 5, 1964, to Oct. 23, 1965, Pyro conducted 227 ammunition underway replenishments, transferring 10,041 tons of ammunition to Seventh Fleet combatants. On three occasions Pyro established new ammunition transfer records for Seventh Fleet ammo ships. This performance was further enhanced by transferring fuel, fresh water, personal mail and fleet freight during the same period.

All personnel attached to and serving with Pyro during that period, or any part thereof, are authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon.

Smallpox, Measles Protection Planned for 18 African Nations

Plans for a program to protect 105 million people in 18 African nations from smallpox and measles were announced by the White House.

Africa is a major area of smallpox incidence and measles is one of the primary causes of death or disability among African children.

The Agency for International Development (AID) and Public Health Service officials are consulting with African and World Health Organization officials on plans for the campaign.

SWORN IN—The Honorable David E. McGiffert, new Under Secretary of the Army, receives congratulations from Stanley R. Resor, Secretary of the Army, at swearing-in ceremony Nov. 30.

MSTS Cargo to SE Asia Doubled Since January 1965

Defense shipping to Southeast Asia by the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) has more than doubled this year.

A requirement for some 300,000 measurement tons last January has risen to nearly 725,000 tons monthly for the last half of this year, where it has leveled off. MSTS officials say present capability is more than enough to meet U.S. requirements and Republic of Vietnam port facilities are adequate and improving daily.

Tonnage figures do not include petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL), which are primarily carried by petroleum firm vessels. There has been no significant rise in POL shipments since the RVN buildup, an official said.

Present MSTS capability includes 20 Navy-owned ships, 59 de-mothballed ships, 57 U.S. flag ships carrying defense cargo on regularly scheduled commercial runs, and 38 U.S. flag ships chartered outright. Officials expressed optimism this ship level can be maintained, despite continuing requirements to renegotiate contracts.

USO to Mark Silver Anniversary in 1966

Civilian, religious and military leaders will join the USO in observance of its Silver Anniversary Year in 1966.

The armed forces will lead off celebrations with radio and television programs, through the Armed Forces Network, the week of Jan. 31.

Officials See 300 mph For XM-51A Helicopter

Developers of Army's XM-51A compound helicopter say the world's fastest rotorcraft is now capable of flight at even higher speeds.

Combining a rigid-blade helicopter rotor with stubby wings and an auxiliary jet engine, engineers at the Lockheed-California Company say the compound craft has a 300 mph. record within its reach.

Using only half thrust of its wing-mounted jet engine, the XM-51A flew at 272 mph. earlier this year. Despite the unusually high speeds for a helicopter, the craft has proved to be extremely stable and maneuverable in flight. The pilot enjoys exceptional control during high speed flight because the weight of the craft is transferred from rotor to wings, leaving the blades relatively unburdened for greater control.

Ship Overhaul, Research Lab Contracts Awarded by Navy

Navy has awarded a $3.4 million contract for activation and overhaul of tank landing ships Litchfield County, Park County and Sutter County located at the Bremerton, Wash., reserve fleet area. It has also awarded $3 million for construction of an operations and technical services building, and $4.7 million for construction of a general purpose laboratory, both to be located at Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

NAVY SPEAKER—Under Secretary of the Navy, Robert H. Baldwin, addresses the crew of the guided missile frigate USS Halsey (DLG 23) on educational opportunities in the Navy.

Army Helicopters May Get New Rocket Launch System

Rocket launchers on Army helicopters may be replaced with the new 2.75 inch system that has been successfully test fired at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The XM-158 seven-tube reusable pod fired more than 500 rounds in test; current launchers can be reused only a limited number of times. Scheduled for early 1966 field deployment, the XM-158 is lighter, less expensive than predecessors and combines greater firepower with less upkeep.

U.S. Physical Fitness Progress 'Remarkable'

The President's Council on Physical Fitness has reported "remarkable" progress in efforts to achieve high levels of physical fitness for all Americans.

Upon receiving the report, President Johnson praised the response to the program, commenting that tests given youngsters showed today's average child equal to those considered superior five years ago.

School systems have increased emphasis on physical education, businesses are spending over $1 billion annually for employee recreation and 22 states have initiated programs to support the national effort.

'Operation Green Turtle' In 5th Lifesaving Year

Navy is cooperating to help preserve green sea turtles. Each year since 1960 they have "planted" baby sea turtles in various areas of the Caribbean. Without this assistance, many turtles are eaten by predatory birds and animals shortly after being hatched, or while still in the shell.

Soon, scientists hope to determine whether the turtles are surviving and returning to the areas where they have been planted. Some have been sighted in certain areas for the first time in more than 100 years. Early indications show Navy's "Operation Green Turtle" is proving successful.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dr. William F. Scherer appointed director of the Commission on Viral Diseases of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, succeeding **Dr. William McD. Hammon. Mr. Bernard J. Vierling** appointed Deputy Director of Federal Aviation Agency's Office of Supersonic Transport Development. **Mr. Jack Moskowitz** appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and Industrial Relations, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), succeeding **Mr. Stephen N. Shulman. Maj. Gen. James B. Lampert, USA,** appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), with rank of lieutenant general. **Brig. Gen. Donald B. Bennett** succeeds **General Lampert** as Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy, with rank of major general. **RAdm. John J. Hyland, USN,** appointed Commander, 7th Fleet, succeeding **VAdm. Paul Blackburn Jr.**

CONTRACT AWARDS

U.S. Steel Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.: $18,997,000 fixed-price contract for bomb bodies.

Northwest Marine Iron Works, Portland, Ore.: $3,396,579 fixed-price contract for activation and overhaul of gasoline tankers USS Patapsco (AOG-1) and USS Kishwaukee (AOG-9).

Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Sunnyvale, Calif.: $6,500,000 increment to contract for Agena-D launch services.

R.P.R. Construction Co., Inc. and Harry M. Rubenstein Phoenix, Ariz.: (joint venture) $4,538,350 fixed-price contract for construction of 287 family housing units at Offutt AFB, Neb.

General Precision, Inc., Librascope Group, Glendale, Calif.: $8,794,434 fixed-price contract for major components for fire control system of SUBROC.